Time given for paying Electricity Bills

3895. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consumers are not given sufficient time by various State Governments or electricity boards/authorities to pay their electricity bills and sometimes even a day's time is given for the purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to instruct all State Governments to ensure that at least fifteen days time is given to all consumers especially small farmers to pay their dues?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) As per information available from State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs), these Commissions are giving 7 to 21 days time for payment of electricity bills for various categories of consumers. In some cases more time is allowed for payment of bills by the domestic and agricultural consumers. Further, under the Electricity Act 2003, at least 15 clear days notice in writing is required to be given to the consumer before disconnecting the electricity supply in the event of non-payment of any dues to the distribution licensees or generating companies.

(c) No, Sir. The Act provides that the SERCs shall specify an Electricity Supply Code to provide, *inter alia,* for recovery of electricity charges and intervals for billing of electricity charges.

Setting up of Hydro Power Project in North Eastern Region

3896. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI LALIT SURI:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. is exploring the possibility of setting up five major hydro power projects for generating 5000 MW in North Eastern Region;

(b) whether three projects out of them have already been identified in Arunachal Pradesh;